WHAT

WE

TAKE FOR

GRANTED

By

Jack

War

Violence begets terrorism, terrorism begets the State and the State begets terrorism.

It is the State that owns the weapons of mass destruction and the weapons of legal coercion. The guillotine of death has always belonged to the State. It is the State that possesses, fabricates, sells, perfects and stores weapons of mass destruction: smart bombes, depleted uranium, genetically modified viruses, chemical, biological and psychological tools of terror.

There is no difference between rogue and non-rogue States. Each State develops weapons of defence, euphemism for terror, in the name of security, territorial integrity, cultural values, wellbeing, freedom, nationality and ethnicity synthesized as generalized security of the people. In essence it is coercion, imposition, regimentation and enslavement of the people itself in the interests of capital and the ruling classes. The rogue State is an invention of the virulently aggressive USA Capitalism, to serve its purposes, using terror and fear to enforce obedience to its unfettered geo-political imperialist expansions and to subdue any State to its economical, moral and political dictates. The war in Iraq is a grim reminder to those who have remained recalcitrant to this U.S.A.'s Global adventure.

The difference between State terrorism and the terrorism of desperate individuals is that the latter is a product of a mentality born of an environment of abject poverty, of emotional oppression, intellectual abuses, fear, insecurity and terror by the rogue power of the State.

State terrorism is omnipotent, rational, teleological, pervasive, and, above all, the only legal tool of coercion. Even if it is clad in "liberal" ideologies, its aim is to enforce social control, to uphold the established ideology, to defend the ruling classes and capital. Any rebellion against

the norms of capitalism is to be crushed, the free flow of multinational capital guaranteed and to the most barbaric policy of the U.S.A established. The radical assertion of the anti-globalization movement and any protest against capitalism are to be fragmented, criminalized and suppressed. The Global Village which people are enticed to is the Glass House of humanity where community, society and individuals are controlled phenomena subservient and functional to the New Imperial Order. Any opposition to its universality, including any State, has to kneel before the New Imperial Order both voluntarily or by economic sanctions, bribery, coup d'etat, incursion, invasion or occupation.

By criminalising dissent, on the basis that it is a breeding ground of terrorism, and by marginalizing freedom, on the basis that it spreads terrorist activities, the State enters into its totalitarian stage. The nightmare of the night of the long knives, midnight or early morning knocks at the door, kidnapping or vanishing without a trace and the evaporation of "undesirable" beings is haunting us. Big Brother transmutes into the first Pope of universal capitalism with his seat in the Pentagon

An Israeli, a certain Sergio Yahni, said that Israel is engaged in a Dirty War against Palestinians. So is the war of the Axis of the Willing against the Axis of Evil. Evil is demonized to justify the diabolic crimes committed by the Axis of the Willing. But has there ever been a clean war? No war is clean! All wars are dirty and evil. They devastate cities, monuments and culture and slaughter people in order to open vast opportunities for profiteers and transnationals to amass fortunes, but for the people they remain a pestilence and a curse because it is the people who are the real casualties. War; be it democratic, socialistic, patriotic, local or global, is nothing else but an act of terror. Terror to extend the power of domination, to liquidate rivals, to cleanse or incorporate ethnicity, to control the resources of wealth, to conquer and appropriate the riches produced by the masses. Wars are good only for

warmongers and merchants of death, because they give them significance, power, money and privileges.

Nonetheless, there is a 'Clean War'. Its players wear white gloves and sit in spacious, comfortable offices. They masturbate with sterilized buttons and in the spasm of excitement press various buttons to see the visual effect of their guided pricks, the smart bombs, penetrating the viscera of the earth and transforming cities and mountains into rubble, forests into charcoal and humans into ashes. This is virtual pleasure for elite forces, generals, Special Services and politicians in White Houses or palaces, but for the people, there are real funeral processions of suffering, rivers of tears, displacement, blood and graves. Guernica, but this time caused not by the Condor Division but by the Pentagon. The 200.000 buried by Desert Storm were not important. Their lips were sealed in the mass graves and dust settled on dust. Today Desert Storm is accompanied by 'enduring freedom', 'anti-terrorism' and 'infinite justice'.

G.W. Bush is pursuing his Dad's Army policy. Massive military attacks on Iraq to make it free and install democracy or more precisely to bring it to its knees. In order to do this the USA appropriates sovereign authority over Iraq.

The saintly prattles of Bush in his addresses to the Nation and to the world that the USA had to invade Iraq because the latter was a threat to its security and a danger to humanity, was a con job of the oil Barons. Claiming that Iraq was dying, by the evil it inflicted on its own people, Bush called on Iraqis not to fight for a dying regime. But if the regime was dying why did the USA and its willing sheriffs, have to marshal such a formidable force to defeat a dying regime? Why not let it to die its natural death? Why unleash such an apocalyptic terror and massacre the innocent? But those 'who are not with us are against us', therefore, they are terrorists and 'terrorists have no respect for values'.

War, the triumph of violence over reason, of terror over peace, is a dirty adventure. So are the scientists who provide and perfect the government's murderous machine with the lethal weapons of mass destruction to perform precision surgical operations. Operations, by intelligent, smart bombs and missiles, are performed on the enemy to remove all organs that make a society functional and independent and reduce it to a commercial commodity functional to the Global Empire.

To achieve this aim the political arm of Global Capitalism, the USA, solemnly proclaims a permanent war against dissent, against any humanity that refuses to accept the dictates of the self proclaimed Saviour. Thus the eagles of the Empire pour the brimstones of Hell over the heads of those who oppose the Prophet of Righteousness and the Coalition of the Willing. The Christian jihad and the jihad of Mohamed enact the death march of Civilisation. This is the apocalyptical vision of post-modern capitalism.

Herodotus was proven wrong in his claim that history is the teacher of the people. On the contrary, history repeats itself. History is an edited version of the truth. It is a chronology of epics of power, a gallery of rulers, monuments of conquerors, killers, oppressor and a saga of cruelties and wars. Now we are served the final menu of the virtue of wars: a permanent war to establish a permanent peace by oppression and freedom by terror. In fact history is a story of the ruling classes: a story of opulence, fetishism of violence, social Darwinism and a story of the world's permanent misery.

History is a journey of power metamorphoses. Power to dominate, to exploit and to manipulate in order to enslave and rob the masses of the product of their labour, that is, to appropriate the surplus value. All attempts of the underdogs to rebel against the system are drowned in their own blood. And history will remain such: a story of rulers, unless people clean up the ideological mould in their brains accumulated by centuries of domination and fear.

People have to seriously look at the historical role of the State in order to grasp the functions of political and economic powers, of political parties and hierarchies to comprehend that terror is a means to dominate, to coerce, to violate and create a psychosis of fear and thus paralyse and kill any initiative for a free, independent and equal society. Since war is the health of the State and the State a vehicle of terrorism, the centralization of weapons of mass destruction in hands of the global super power, the USA, is the acme of super terrorism.

Of religion and war. 2-13-04

Yesterday's religion,
Is nothing but tomorrow's corporation?
In which we shall all wear suits and ties,
And lie to ourselves,
Saying that everything is fine,
When we are in fact.
On the verge of war.

"Death Flag" 5-3-04

Hundreds of Orange flags,
Line the sidewalks,
Like a landing strip in an airport,
On a worm summer day,
They mark the paths,
Of water, power and gas,
Under the grounds of this great city,
A young boy picks up a flag,
And waves it proudly,
Displaying, not the Red, White and Blue of our country,
But the logo of a corporation'
On a piece of plastic meant to mark a specific path,
When I die, I want no tombstone,
Only a tiny flag that says "unincorporated". (Kyle Van Heck)

What We Take For Granted

The topic of expertism raises a host of complex issues. An expert qua expert is not the issue, if the latter is identified as someone with skills and abilities. All productive activities are equally important to social wellbeing, but to transfer expertism, that is evaluated respect for someone's skills and abilities, into unevaluated deference to the person possessing them, or purporting to possess them, is to slip into the frame of authoritarian values and hierarchies. Thus, experts only acquire significance within the capitalist market economy, itself based on hierarchies. By putting the emphasis on the superiority of their knowledge, of their know-how, the stress is placed on the importance of established values, of capitalist exploitation and class domination. In other words, in order to get some understanding of "expertism", one has to get some understanding of the nature and functioning of hierarchies.

Authoritarianism is embedded not only in all experts and in dominant elites, but also in alternative social movements. Socialism failed in its praxis not as a result of persecution but as a result of its own inner contradictions. Socialism has preserved the hierarchical structures which have permitted power to slide into the hands of the socialist elite and thus to thwart revolutionary realizations. The collapse of socialism as a socially liberatory force is a brilliant proof how power and hierarchies lead not only to revolutionary degeneration, to use Trotskyite phraseology, but also to revolutionary defeat

To assume that by capturing power the working class will eliminate injustices and exploitation is nonsense, if not a myth. The workers failed because they put their trust in hierarchies, their faith in the socialist avantgarde while they themselves remained in the rear-guard. Today, despite slogans of class war, class struggle, class interests etc., class solidarity is only a ripple in the consciousness of the workers. It is

because the workers allow themselves to be represented by the middle classes or by ex-workers turned into bureaucrats. The weakness of the workers is that by delegating power to their representatives they forsake their direct participation in issues concerning themselves and, by proxy, they forsake their solidarity too.

To claim that the working class is the depository of revolutionary consciousness is a far fetched hypothesis rarely reflecting reality. A class functions within hierarchies and is imbued with hierarchical values. In general, in the hierarchical ladder of capitalism, the working class occupies a subaltern position. Also, within the working class itself, there are visible and invisible hierarchies which prevent class solidarity among the workers themselves.

Hierarchies and classes are closely related and are the main feature of the greatest capitalist picture, the State, the political arm of capitalism, within which exploitation, subservience, inferiority, emotional, economic and intellectual misery exist. If the workers are to be emancipated they need to dismantle this kind of picture rather than refurbishing it, as had been the case in the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. Refurbishing the State is refurbishing the bourgeoisie. That is why socialism in government is more reactionary than non-socialist governments since socialists in power have to eliminate socialism to survive as the tool of the bourgeoisie. To argue, as Trotskyists do, that socialism collapsed because of the degeneration of its leadership is nonsense. A class led by leaders, by virtue of being led, is in a subordinate position and, therefore, lacks consciousness.

Hierarchy - the Pandora Box - was presented to Pandora by Zeus as a device to punish the rebellious and mischievous spirit of Prometheus and, at the same time, to infect humanity with the most obnoxious disease, hierarchy, in order to perpetuate the power of gods, fathers and rulers. It was intended to chain humanity into embedded authority in the various archies. Had Pandora not been deceived by the gods, she

could have had a peaceful life with peace of mind. But having been made from clay and endowed with life by a creator whose purpose was to assert power and demand obedience, she became a vehicle of the will of the archy, the will of the creator.

Today there are many 'centred' persons who search for a quiet harbour in the ocean of life, in order to achieve peace of mind within themselves, by ignoring the expanse of oceanic waves, variegations of existence and the by-ways of daily events. However, they fail to understand that running from life is running towards death, and like ostriches, they continue to live within the institution of death, destruction and domination. If individuals are to have a full life they do not need peace of mind, but full freedom and full access to economic wealth in order to satisfy their emotional cravings, intellectual curiosity and to mentally enrich themselves. They have to wake up, spit on power, destroy the chain of slavery, refuse to delegate decision making and cleanse their mental wardrobe of hierarchical illusions.

Hierarchy is the core within which power operates, within which people are categorised, classified, and inferiority and superiority are made functional to exploitation and manipulation. Therefore, it is not incidental that hierarchy is largely neglected in political discussions, in leftist circles, and organizational issues. Hierarchy is the harbour of mentally castrated individuals.

And yet there is no doubt that expertism without hierarchy has no intellectual, economic, political or psychological significance. Without hierarchy 'skills and abilities' could not be transformed into an intellectual commodity and evaluated as an economic value. Without hierarchies the universities, as well as the factories, would become obsolete. Schools and factories would be fused. Titles would no more be invoked to inflate personal vanity or to create mirrors reflecting the narcissism of the bourgeois spectacle.

Since the entrance of women's liberation into the political arena patriarchy has especially been singled out for attack and has come to occupy the forefront in the political language, while hierarchy has remained in the background. Naturally so, since hierarchy is a useful instrument for some sisters to become more equal than others. In fact neither clitorocracy nor phallocracy are propitious for personal or human liberation. In both cases only lip service is paid to the latter since liberation within hierarchies is a myth.

The left, anxious to appropriate revolutionary elan, emphasizes class analyses and class struggle, but merely as slogans, as a vehicle of proselytizing or as stepping stones to capturing power, that is, to preserve hierarchies. They assume that a classless society can be realised within hierarchies ignoring the fact that within hierarchies the proletariat, as class, has always played a subordinate role to the bourgeoisie. It produces the goods but does not share the benefits. The lion shares goes to the parasites. The blatant refusal to recognise this historical role of the proletariat, not in abstract but in concrete terms was responsible for the dramatic collapse of socialism embedded, in the State, and the transformation of socialists into the stooges of capitalism. Unless the proletariat destroys class society and itself as a class, its emancipation will remain an illusion and it will continue to suffer from dependency syndrome.

Thus anarchist's claim that socialism qua socialism cannot function within hierarchies is correct, the rest is revolutionary phraseology. Class in itself is not a carrier of revolutionary values nor does it have a liberatory function. On the contrary, it is within hierarchies that class finds its own significance and for this significance to be destroyed then hierarchy, be it bourgeois, proletarian or revolutionary must be deposed from the social, personal, political and economic scenes. Hierarchy categorises. Even within the same class there are categories: there is lumpen and qualified proletariat, the former a carrier of false consciousness, the latter of revolutionary awareness; labour is manual

or intellectual and remunerated accordingly. Intellectuals are divided into various categories: engineers, doctors, professors, managers, the latter in charge of human resources to screw up the workers. It is not their knowledge that matters but the place they occupy in the economic and ruling hierarchies and the screwing role they play in the ladder of political and economic oppression.

Of all alternatives to capitalism and the bourgeois movements, only the anarchists hit the nail on the head. If humanity is to be liberated, if society is to be classless, if economic equality is to be a social fact, then the State needs to be abolished with all its economic, political and personal paraphernalia. It is the State that is the dividing line between anarchists and other so called revolutionary and alternative movements. The anarchists are correct since the State, as a vehicle of the revolution, buried the revolution and dug the grave of revolutionaaries

The leftists, who upheld the theory and the praxis of the State as a vehicle of revolutionary changes, not only gave a respite to the State, but helped to transform it into a monster which, in the final analysis, has destroyed all dreams of the oppressed for social justice, human emancipation and a classless society. The State has not withered away. On the contrary, it has strengthened itself at the expense of the down trodden. It is aggressive, belligerent and a depository of terrorism.

The State is the acme of absolute political power. It is the other facet of capitalism. It uses terrorism as a weapon to induce fear, to coerce people into obedience and subservience to the established order. Citizens are spied upon, gaoled, tortured, threatened and economically downsized to force them into obeying authority. The State, by its nature to command, to control, to militarise, is already on the road to terrorism. One has only to observe the USA as a global actor trying to establish global hegemony and the first global empire. It pitilessly suppresses those who do not accept its global hegemony. It uses

terrorism to impose a global economic and political yoke and realise its universal dream of capitalist totalitarianism with Washington as its centre.

The anarchists were correct attacking the State as the quintessence of hierarchy and political power. Nonetheless, while they concentrated their attack on the State they overlooked various aspects of functional hierarchies within society: the family, patriarchy, matriarchy and, most important, the order as a hierarchy. Opposing the State and upholding order they have found themselves in a paradoxical position, which prevents them from understanding the significance of hierarchy qua hierarchy. On the one hand they dismiss chaos, on the other they defend order, failing to perceive the glaring contradiction between the two. Chaos is non hierarchical organisation of free, spontaneous individuals, groups and federations Order predicates archies.

Many anarchists love to quote Bakunin that destruction is a way of construction but they fail to grasp its proper significance. First, they have failed to destroy their personal authoritarian armour, forget about the social one, and as a result they have failed to open the floodgate of liberation. Secondly, by appeasing leftism, they, willy-nilly, allow the bourgeoisie to unleash a force of destruction never ever seen on such a large scale. This force, in the name of anti terrorism, is changing the face of the earth dramatically, not for freedom but slavery, not for equality but poverty, not for quality of life but death of quality.

When anarchists insist on the necessity of the destruction of the State as a prerequisite for human liberation, their opponents are quick to retort that this will create chaos. Instead of countering this attack, the anarchists declare that the State is disorder while anarchy is order and, not only that, but even the "supreme order". Here anarchists are trapped in the logic of their opponents. Instead of making a critical analysis of order as the originator, upholder and enforcer of hierarchies, anarchists are wavering. The State is the supreme order that has no

other order than itself. It is the supreme imposter, the supreme god, the supreme commander and everything is subservient to it .The State produces, stores, uses and sells weapons of mass destruction to keep order going. Its order is backed by a military machine that sows death, wrecks life, destroys cities, desecrates the Planet and produces havoc and holocaust to fight Chaos and reinstate order. Unless we get rid of order and its manifestation –disorder, which suffocate life, chaos will remain a dream. Chaos is horizontally organized infrastructures of voluntary groups, associations and federations where hierarchies are absent. If the aim of anarchists is to refurbish or to reaffirm order then they are indulging in illusions, if not delusions. To think that liberation can take place in order is a myth. But we take too many things for granted.

Ant hill: Capitol Hill
5-7-04

The other day,
I found government in my own backyard,
Ants, giving and following orders,
Although never questioning them,
Like we tend to do.
What makes their system work?
What makes ours fail?
Ant hill,
Capitol hill,
Both contain hundreds of workers,
All with a known rank,
And from a distance,
The politicians even look like ants,
I burn one with my magnifying glass

Kyle Van Heck

GODS AND POPES

A long time ago the Gods of Olympus evaporated from the mountains into eternity, or they have become museums' relics. Those of the Heavens were dethroned by science but their counterparts on earth are alive and flourishing as rulers and popes. Gods have no interest in the earth but the earth needs them to perpetuate exploitation, misery and the State, the latter as the story of hierarchies.

For anarchists the State is an enemy of freedom as well as a hindrance to human emancipation. Its function is to create, support and defend privileges. Therefore it is not an impartial arbiter in social struggles but an active participant in keeping people in subordination. It is not and cannot be an instrument of revolutionary change, as some leftists try to convince us, because it is a cause and effect of class differentiation. Realising that the emancipation of the workers and humanity cannot be an act of an oppressive institution, the anarchists vehemently opposed the State as an institution. Their warnings of the State's pernicious consequences were ignored. Today it is coming back with a vengeance. The State is omnipotent. Armed to the teeth with the most powerful weapon of terrorism, the WMD, it is a threat not only to any revolution, emancipation and freedom but to all humanity: politically, socially and physically.

With the advent of feminism the patriarchy was singled out for attack as an institution of the oppression of women. Instead of directly attacking the patriarchy and becoming a rallying point to all forces which opposed it, feminists looked to the State for help.. Like the socialists before them, they underestimated the role of the State, and the role of the hierarchy itself.

It is a historical parody that the State is considered to be an

independent, neutral institution above social tensions, struggles and upheavals. All struggles, upheavals, rebellions and revolutions have taken place within the State but rarely against the State, within hierarchies but never against the hierarchy. If there is a deviation from this pattern and the struggle centres between power and anarchy, between order and chaos, the forces of order will descend upon it and pitilessly crush it. This task is facilitated by the fact that many revolutionaries accept the order embodied in the State and, therefore, their main aim is to capture power rather than destroy it. Socialism and feminism are two glaring examples. Socialists preserve the State in order to crush capitalism, instead they crush socialism. Feminists joined the government to strengthen their muscle in the fight against the patriarchy and instead they participated in its repressive policy. In both cases neither socialism nor women's liberation ever eventuated. What eventuated was their radical incorporation into the established order.

Since slavery and exploitation are the basic sources of wealth, it is no wonder that masters, rulers and hierarchs are extremely anxious to preserve, to glorify and mystify it.

It was the first Patriarch-God who to assert his power over the universe suppressed chaos and in its place put order and hierarchy. But chaos - spontaneity and creativity - taunted his dreams and security. To prevent any eventual rebellion of the repressed forces, he created an army of archangels, seraphim and angels. Nevertheless, in fear that chaos could strike at him sometime in the future, he invested power in churches, kings and states to guarantee the security of his universal order. It is chaos – not some disorder, some quibble over power - that is anathema to his power.

Chaos challenges authority, churches, and the State since their functions are to coerce, to oppress, dominate and to eliminate any sign of spontaneity. They are sources of fear and terror, real and

psychological, in order to prevent any spontaneous outburst; to curb deviationism and prevent the masses from organizing their own destinies and choosing their own life in contrast to one imposed on them. They are the locusts devouring the flesh of their brothers and sisters and draining the blood of the slaves within the historical paradox that they are "servants". Some are Servants of God, preparing the people for life here-after while robbing them of life here and now. Others are "servants of the people" whom they oppress, conscript and send to the abattoir. It is a paradox that "the Servants" swim in opulence while "the Masters" are dying of starvation. Who are the servants is obvious. Nonetheless, most people are docile and faithfully follow these demagogues.

This was the case of millions who went on their knees to pay respect to the Pharaoh's corpse, the Pope, which was a display of idolatry bungled together with images of a Pope close to the heart of the people, friend of the workers and the poor. Yet the reality was quite different. He intended to centralize the power of the Church in the hands of The Curia, or in the hands of the General Secretary, Ratzinger. To the down trodden he had offered plenty of homilies urging them to be humble, patient and obedient. To the rulers he bestowed honours and reminded the rich of the Christian virtue of charity. To General Pinochet on the occasion of his golden anniversary of marriage he sent him his blessing: "To General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte and his distinguished wife Mrs Lucia Hiriarde Pinochet on the occasion of their golden wedding and as a token of abundant divine grace I, with great pleasure, bestow to them and their grand children a special apostolic benediction" –John Paul .II. To the General he granted absolution for the crime of massacring innocent people. But the Pope of humility refused to humble himself and meet the mothers of the desaparecidos, as if they were made of different flesh. Thus the butchers are virtuous when they belong to the ruling class, while their victims are evil because they ask for bread, butter and better conditions. Thus the Church is on the side of rulers since Church and State are the pivotal

point of social control.

In fact it is within this frame of references that one can understand the intricacy of the king of the kings, the Pope. The Vatican staged the greatest Hollywood-style funeral play to emphasize its intention as a universal power broker in the new imperial order. It was attended by all secular and religious rulers of the world, united in a bid to share the loot and at the same time warn the populace of their place in society, respect for authority and the virtue of obedience.

Capitalism needs religious images to withstand the revolutionary waves of the people and uses them as rituals in support of the status quo. For the anarchists organized religion is a spiritual web and, like the State, it is a hindrance to the emancipation of humanity. Therefore State and Church have to disappear from society to open the road to freedom and liberation. The socialists, who upheld the necessity of the State as a revolutionary praxis, instead of serving the proletariat served the reaction. The feminists, seduced by masculinity, instead of fighting the patriarchy and emancipating women joined the government and participated in its macabre march of oppression. Both ended as auxiliary components of the State and strengthened the march of the New Global imperialism guided by Bush and his archangels of permanent war and enduring slavery.

In the "transparent" democracies and "un-transparent" tyrannies where news is mediated by the servile press, infantilism is becoming main stream behaviour and a factor in social relationships. Minimising the function of critical analysis, inducing a mass psychology of sycophancy and mass hysteria, rationality and life are forced into a cul de sac. Projecting idolatry of political and religious leaders, cults of Fuhrers and presidents is a frightening post modern manifestation of fascism. It is worthwhile to analyse the death of the Pope.

The dead souls of the living accompanying the coffin of a soulless

body to an eternity of nothingness, celebrated the life in death. Why don't those who preach and honestly believe in life after death, grab the first opportunity to immigrate to the valley of shadows? Why do they promise eternal bliss and heaven to the poor, exploited, humble and obedient and yet refuse to depart this valley of misery! If the believers are really authentic and are longing for the eternal blissfulness of their souls why do they not leave the wealth to those who produce it, to labourers and the poor? Why rob the people of their daily bread and life? Why build monuments of glory to compensate for their infamous souls empty of content and full of bones? Why glorify life after death, while gobbling the life of millions on this earth? In God we trust, but lock the extortion of surplus value in the banks. We are civilized but build concentration camps to incarcerate people who are searching for freedom and a better life. We prevent the circulation of people but allow the circulation of capital. We bomb to civilize. Occupy to democratize. And we are civilized!?

The spectacle is the game of the ruling classes to compensate for the poverty and servility of their subjects; to feed their hearts with forlorn hopes and their brains with phantoms. So the Pharaoh, spiritual or secular, is a mortal above other mortals. A dead Pope radiates more omnipotence because he is transformed into an ethereal being. To him are attributed virtues that mortals lack. Virtues concocted in the labyrinth of his advisers,

Thus Hitlers, Stalins, Pol Pots and Bushes are ideological puppets manufactured by the dominant political and economical interests. The media produce the images to suit the psychology of the crowd which, to a great extent, is produced and manipulated by the media and the government propaganda machinery. Some times the images of the puppets are humane or tough, ruthless or charitable. Other times they are pompous, big, direct and erect to appease women's longing or satisfy macho cravings. They are often described as sympathetic to the oppressed, to the downtrodden because they offer them generous

wellbeing at the end of history or here-after. Or they are represented as strong who with their military strength can guarantee the security of the people and, if necessary, sacrifice them for socialism, for socialist or capitalist heaven, for democracy or enduring freedom. Other times they evoke the spectrum of terrorism to instil fear, uncertainty and the paranoia of otherness and thus enable the government to unleash its oppressive machinery.

The media is well aware of the function of spiritual and political religions as opium to control the masses and make them pliable in the hands of rulers. Dependency on drugs encourages submissiveness to authority. After all religious and political leaders are servants of the highest authorities, god, the State or "the sovereignty of the people". The latter is the greatest myth perpetrated by democratic demagogy to sedate the revolutionary urges of the masses and preserve religious and political hierarchies and patriarchy. It is in this context that the stage spectacle of the funeral of Pope John Paul II has to be evaluated

The Vatican needed the spectacle to imprint its superiority in relation to other denominations and religions and, as well, to assert itself as the only way of salvation. At the same time it tried to emphasize its role in the New Liberal Order and to ensure that Catholicism is really catholic in the universe of global capitalism. This scheme was carefully elaborated by Opus Dei waiting its propitious moment. It came with Vojtyla being elected as Pope John Paul II. This was the time to change the more liberal policy established by the Second Vatican Council and, at the same time, to put ecumenical issues in proper perspective. For that they had to go back to the First Vatican Council of 1868-70 in order to find a base to attack liberalism and, at the same time, establish a premise to justify the centralization of power in the hands of the Vatican's Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith. According to the new Curia, the time was ripe for the Church to begin forcing the army of priests, archbishops and cardinals to literally adhere to the dogma of the Church. Those who think that 'obedience is not virtue' are

undermining the authority of the Church. The function of the priest is to spread the gospel not to change the conditions of the poor. Independence as well as liberation of the people is not an issue. The issue is to appeal to the hearts of the rich and remind them of Christian charity.

Vojtyla as Pope John Paul II put into practice the Opus Dei teaching. Any fight for some distribution of the wealth is a foul attempt of the left to destabilize social relationships and thus deny the Church the opportunity to recruit souls for its earthly missions. That is why the repressive actions carried out in Latin America, courtesy of the CIA and right wing generals, were lauded by the church hierarchy and the USA as saving the world from godless communism. For the CIA and the Church anyone who is critical of capitalism and its social abuses is either a communist or an atheist or a terrorist or a criminal. The invention of the global village, as a step towards the establishment of the American capitalist geo political imperialism, opened the door for the Church to assert its catholic role in the village. The Global Village is a class society. In it some people in the third world are commodities and statistics while in the first world they are human. The poor or oppressed in the third world are fodder for capitalist and military machines and a recruiting ground for religion and religious fanaticism.

A year after the coronation of Vojtyla as Pope John Paul II the well known theologian Hans Kung, who as an expert on theological issues participated in the Second Vatican Council, was dismissed. His heretical view was to challenge the central role of the Bishop of Rome in a democracy. But the new pope had no time for democracy. The clergy are to obey the will of the Vicar of Christ on the earth. Discussion within the Church ceased. Authority qua authority was not questioned. The ecumenicalism of Kung was transformed into one-way ecumenicity to serve the interests of the Opus Dei central committee. Kung was correct to state that concentration of power in the hands of the Roman Curia strengthened the theocratical power of the Church

and its capacity to interfere in society. The Pope and Ratzinger took over and the Church was transformed into a fortress of conservatism.

There were many dissensions within the Church. Some like theologian Bernard Haering, disagreed with the Church on the issue of abortion. This prompted German, Dutch, Austrian and Swiss theologians to publish the Cologne Declaration accusing the Pope of misuse of power by interfering in issues unrelated to his office. As a counter attack the Vatican asserted its authority by appointing, in Catholic Faculties, theologians sympathetic to the views of the Pope and his General Secretary, Ratzinger. Some French clergy went as far as to claim that, with the election of Vojtyla, freedom in the Church was killed. To silence the voice of liberalism and freedom the master mind behind Vojtyla, Cardinal Ratzinger, issued the document Donum Veritatis where the spiritual duties of theologians were put in perspective: never to contradict the teaching of the Church and the Holy Office. This was the first step to silence any dissent within the Church and was also an indication of the ascendancy of the power of Opus Dei.

Throwing millions of dollars to promote the dead Pope as a paradigm of virtue, justice and humility is a political stunt of the Vatican ministry of propaganda, if not a manifestation of pagan pageantry. The monarch of the invisible monarchy that permeates Western societies is not in favour of justice to alleviate the burden of the poor or of humility to throw the merchants out of the Temple of God, but justice for the traders and corporate sector. The class struggle was anathema for him because it was a tool of the workers movement for emancipation and improvement of their own conditions. As a Pope he was made infallible by the first Vatican Council and as such he intended to play a leading role in the New Liberal Order and, naturally, on the side of infallible Capitalism. It is in this light that one must see the close collaboration between the Vatican and the USA policy to suppress peoples' rebellion for bread, butter, freedom and a dignified life. After all there are two classes: the dominant and subservient or the rulers and

the ruled. The classes are ordained by God, the universal monarch, and accepted and upheld by his vicar on earth. As far as the Church and the State are concerned people are children to be socialized, indoctrinated and militarised. The Church and the State are instruments of domination and all the means they use are declared legitimate and permissible. They turn lies into truth, like water into wine. They use violence and terrorism, the gun, the stick and the carrot while the donkey, the people, continues to carry the burden of existence like it had carried Christ to Jerusalem. Therefore, emancipation, liberation and justice will only be realized if humanity throws into the garbage bin of history all Popes, Gods and Masters.